

COMMENCEMENT BAY NRDA RESTORATION

Fact Sheet SCK-1

Swan Creek - City Project 2

Working Draft February 19, 1998

SWAN CREEK RESTORATION

VISION: The City of Tacoma will develop, as part of their Commencement Bay Natural Resource Damage Assessment (CB/NRDA) settlement, a stream restoration project on 12 acres of property bordering Swan Creek adjacent to the City limits and the Puyallup River. This site is listed as part of "PR-7" in the CB/NRDA Trustees' Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and Restoration Plan (1997).

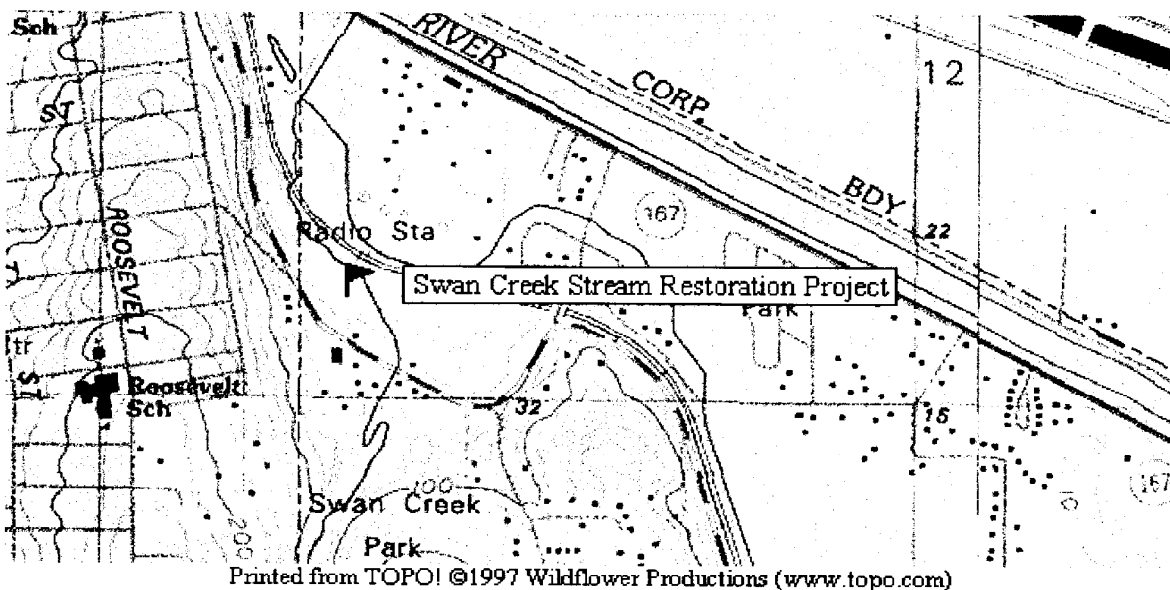
GOALS:

1. Restore and enhance refuge habitat for juvenile salmonids originating in the Puyallup River system;
2. Provide increased and enhanced wetland habitat for wetland-dependent species in the lower Puyallup River system;
3. Eliminate fish passage impediments in the lower reaches of Swan Creek to support migration of anadromous salmonids to Swan Creek;
4. Provide a habitat linkage between the downstream Port of Tacoma mitigation area and the upstream watershed; and
5. Provide stewardship and educational opportunities for City and County residents to increase public awareness of the importance of this type of habitat in the ecosystem.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Excavate approximately two acres of filled wetland property to create off-channel wetland and open water habitat for juvenile anadromous salmonids and wildlife species;
2. Evaluate and implement habitat improvements, including possible channel relocation, in an area of the stream adjacent to the Burlington-Northern railroad tracks;
3. Evaluate existing fish passage and implement recommended passage improvements in the stream channel upstream of the railroad tracks; and
4. Plant native vegetation within and adjacent to newly created wetlands and on nearby hillslopes.
5. Present opportunities for both habitat restoration and public outreach.

PROJECT LOCATION:



**PART 1: SPECIFIC PROJECT ELEMENTS UNDER INITIAL
CONCEPT PLAN TO ACHIEVE GOAL:**

1. Restoration of freshwater habitat (2.0 acres).
2. Planting newly re-established riparian areas (0.7 acres) with native vegetation.
3. Planting hillslopes (3.1 acres) with native coniferous species such as western red cedar and western hemlock.
4. Evaluation of methodologies to improve 1,100 feet of stream habitat through the project site, and the implementation of recommended stream habitat improvement projects.
5. Construction of public access improvements at the project site.
6. Provisions for monitoring and maintenance of the restoration project site.

PART 2: SCHEDULE AND STATUS REPORT:

1. The start date for this project is December 30, 1997, the date of the Consent Decree entry plus one year except that the deed restrictions will be filed within 180 days of the entry of the Consent decree or acquisition.
2. A permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will within 30 days of the City of Tacoma notice of exemption or approval of the shoreline/wetlands permits.
3. Application for State Water Quality Certification and Hydraulic Permit application will be filed during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' review.
4. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plan will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees.
5. Notice of completion will be filed with the Natural Resource Trustees within 300 days of the permit and plan approval.
6. Tasks include:
 - a. Baseline Habitat Data Collection
 - b. Preliminary Design
 - c. Shoreline/Wetlands Permit Applications
 - d. Deed Restriction filed
 - e. Shoreline/Wetland Permit Review
 - f. City Shoreline/Wetland Permit approval
 - g. State Shoreline Permit Approval
 - h. Corps of Engineers' Permit Review
 - i. Final Design
 - j. Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring/Adaptive Management Plan drafting/approval
 - k. Bid and Contract
 - l. Construction oversight
 - m. Monitoring

How can the public stay informed and be involved?

Public participation is an important component of restoration planning by helping the Trustees select and shape restoration projects. You are encouraged to become involved in the restoration planning process because the natural resources in Commencement Bay are your resources. The CB/NRDA Trustees hold quarterly public meetings. If you have questions or would like to be on a mailing list to receive notice of opportunities to participate, please contact:

Jennifer Young, Restoration Case Manager
NOAA Damage Assessment and Restoration Center NW
7600 Sand Point Way NE 98115
Seattle, WA 98115-0070
phone: (206) 526-4348
fax: (206) 526-6665
e-mail: jennifer.young@noaa.gov

Public notices and meetings will also be announced at <http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/cb.htm>.
Project Plans (Attachments to the Consent Decree) may also be downloaded from this site.
